



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 9, 2002

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather is promoting fieldwork, but emerging ***Northwestern*** winter grains are in need of rain for proper autumn establishment.
- ***On the Plains***, drier air is gradually overspreading ***southern portions of the region***, following beneficial, early-week rainfall. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather favors summer crop harvesting and final winter wheat planting. Emerging wheat across the ***central High Plains*** and adjacent areas will soon need additional moisture.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers are spreading into the ***Ohio Valley***, further improving soil moisture for winter wheat emergence and establishment. Meanwhile in the ***upper Midwest***, dry weather favors a limited return to fieldwork, following several episodes of heavy rain.
- ***In the South***, rain is returning to the ***Delta*** and the ***central Gulf Coast region***, causing renewed harvest delays in the wake of Isidore (September 26-27) and Lili (October 3-4). Farther west, heavy rain across the ***eastern half of Texas*** is halting fieldwork and triggering localized flash flooding, but benefiting pastures and winter grains. Meanwhile, Tropical Depression Kyle, merely a swirl of low clouds and showers, is centered about 425 miles east of ***Cape Canaveral, Florida***, moving toward the southwest at 12 m.p.h.

Outlook: Rain will spread from ***eastern Texas*** and the ***Delta*** into the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, while showers will accompany a strong cold front across the ***northern Rockies, Plains, and upper Midwest***, where late-week temperatures will average as much as 20 degrees F below normal. Dry weather will prevail along the ***Pacific Coast***, accompanied by a return to cooler weather, but summer-like heat will prevail in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 14-18 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Rockies, northern High Plains, southern Plains, middle Mississippi Valley, and Great Lakes region***, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***Pacific Northwest, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic region***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***western two-thirds of the U.S.***, while above-normal readings are expected in the ***Atlantic Coast States***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)